



HR0531

LRB102 21142 MST 30138 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Rocky Donahue on the
4 occasion of his retirement as executive director of Pace
5 Suburban Bus; and

6 WHEREAS, Rocky Donahue was born in Calumet City; he
7 graduated from Illinois State University and began his career
8 in public transportation in 1983 at the Regional
9 Transportation Authority; and

10 WHEREAS, Rocky Donahue served as legislative analyst for
11 Pace Suburban Bus starting at the agency's inception in 1984;
12 he acquired additional responsibilities over a decades-long
13 career and, in 2018, became the agency's executive director;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Rocky Donahue continuously worked to improve
16 access to transportation for Illinoisans with disabilities,
17 working with lawmakers to make Pace the sole provider of ADA
18 Paratransit service to all of Northeastern Illinois and
19 working with the disability community to implement continuous
20 improvements to the agency's ADA paratransit service,
21 technology, and infrastructure; and

1 WHEREAS, Rocky Donahue advocated tirelessly for Pace
2 riders, working to ensure sufficient funding for the service
3 on which so many depend; his efforts to create a full,
4 dedicated funding source for ADA paratransit service proved
5 fruitful, as did his contributions to the establishment of the
6 Suburban Community Mobility Fund and the South Suburban Job
7 Access Fund, which provide millions of dollars for suburban
8 transit service; and

9 WHEREAS, Rocky Donahue worked with lawmakers and the
10 Illinois Department of Transportation to create Pace's Bus on
11 Shoulders program along the Stevenson Expressway, the first
12 such service in the State of Illinois and the fastest-growing
13 transportation service in the region since the agency's
14 inception; the success of this program led to its expansion
15 and the implementation of similar service on the Edens
16 Expressway and the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway; and

17 WHEREAS, Rocky Donahue worked with lawmakers to finance
18 the largest investment in suburban transit infrastructure in
19 the State's history through the Rebuild Illinois program; when
20 the projects are complete, new garages in Plainfield and
21 Wheeling, expanded garages in Bridgeview and Elgin, improved
22 passenger facilities in Joliet, Harvey, and along the
23 Tri-State Tollway, and improved ADA paratransit technology
24 will serve generations of Illinoisans thanks to his vision;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Rocky Donahue led Pace through the outbreak of
3 the COVID-19 pandemic, taking unprecedented steps to protect
4 riders and employees while maintaining essential public
5 transportation service to Northeastern Illinois; his fiscal
6 responsibility and his commitment to safety, transparency, and
7 service helped the people of this State weather a historic
8 crisis; and

9 WHEREAS, As Executive Director, Rocky Donahue oversaw the
10 creation of Driving Innovation, Pace's first strategic vision
11 plan in 17 years, setting the agency's trajectory toward zero
12 emissions and helping to envision a more equitable future for
13 the State; and

14 WHEREAS, Rocky Donahue was appointed to the Board of
15 Illinois State University in 2011, where for over 10 years he
16 has served his alma mater as trustee and as that body's chair;
17 during his tenure as chair, he presided over increased
18 enrollment, graduation, and student retention, as well as
19 record fundraising; and

20 WHEREAS, Rocky Donahue served on the Board of the Illinois
21 Public Transportation Association, including two terms as its
22 president, and has been active with groups serving Illinoisans

1 with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as Good
2 Shepherd and Arc of Illinois; and

3 WHEREAS, Rocky Donahue's 38 years of public service have
4 benefited bus riders, people with disabilities, students,
5 taxpayers, and all Illinoisans; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate Rocky Donahue on his retirement as executive
9 director of Pace Suburban Bus and wish him a long, happy, and
10 healthy retirement; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Rocky Donahue as a symbol of our esteem and
13 respect.